Library offers book of children’s writing for sale and checkout

The Big Book is comprised of contributions from local students

COLUMBUS—Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML), beginning this week, offers copies of The Big Book: Voices of Our Future for customer checkout through its catalog and for sale ($10) at the Friends of the Library Store located at Main Library. The Big Book is a compilation of writing from 23 central Ohio students created to commemorate the 75th anniversary of The Columbus Foundation. CML and The Columbus Foundation honored the student authors with a special reception at Main Library on Sunday, Feb. 2.

The project resulted from a collaboration between CML and The Columbus Foundation that offered students the opportunity to submit their writing for a chance to be published. Students in grades 5-12 were asked to submit a story about a goal for their future, a dream they have for their lives or a struggle they have personally overcome. Ultimately, 23 stories – one from each CML location – were chosen for inclusion in the book. Another young CML customer, who was recently accepted into Columbus College of Art & Design, was asked to create the book’s graphics and illustrations.

“The young men and women featured in this book, like our donors, come from different backgrounds,” said Douglas F. Kridler, President and CEO of The Columbus Foundation. “Each has unique gifts to offer, and each has goals, dreams and challenges to meet. Their voices are important. As we look to the next 75 years, my hope is that we continue to grow as a community, cultivate kindness, work together with our friends and neighbors and make sure everyone’s voice has the opportunity to be heard.”

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“The Big Book: Voices of Our Future represents a unique collaboration between The Columbus Foundation and Columbus Metropolitan Library to mark the 75th anniversary of our treasured community foundation,” said CML CEO Patrick Losinski. “While most commemorative celebrations look back upon accomplishments, we engaged the young minds of our community in an exercise to capture the present and cast hope upon the future – their futures.”

The Columbus Foundation serves nearly 3,000 individuals, families and businesses that have created unique funds and planned gifts to make a difference in the lives of others through the most effective philanthropy possible. The Columbus Foundation is Your Trusted Philanthropic Advisor® and one of the top 10 largest community foundations in the United States.

Columbus Metropolitan Library has served the people of Franklin County, Ohio since 1873. With its Main Library and 22 branches, CML is well known for signature services and programs like Homework Help Centers, Reading Buddies, Summer Reading Challenge and Ready for Kindergarten. The library’s Strategic Plan supports the vision of “a thriving community where wisdom prevails,” which positions CML to respond to areas of urgent need: kids unprepared for kindergarten, third grade reading proficiency, high school graduation, college and career readiness and employment resources.

CML was named a 2011 National Medal Winner by the Institute for Museum and Library Services for work in community service, the highest honor for libraries and museums. CML was also named 2010 Library of the Year by Library Journal.

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